Las Vegas Daily Gazette.

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To Correspondents of The Gazette! Correspondents of THE GAZETTE will forward immediately all important news items by wire when available, otherwise by earliest mail or express service.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 22.

OUR local column this morning contains interesting reading in the shape of short opinions of practical outlook for Las Vegas.

A RESEARCH of the annals of San Miguel county under republican misrule shows that since its organization, but one sheriff (the present incumbent, H. Romero) is not now in arrears in returns of public money to the county treasury.

THE inter-state commerce bill, it passed, will benefit New Mexico more than any visible factor. Under its with which the husbandman has had to rulings the railroads will be forced to deal. make short hau's for the same ratio as long. The fifty cent rate to terminal points will be a thing of the past unless the companies are willing to unload merchandise at Las Vegas for twenty-five cents a hundred.

THE democratic central committee of New Mexico has a very important duty to perform at its first meeting in selecting a chairman. The last campaign proved conclusively that the management of the same had been placed in wrong hands, and if the same mistake is made again this year it may lose to the party a victory which is almost assured with a properly managed campaign.

THE GAZETTE would remind Governor Ross that the democratic party was placed in power because the people believed the republicans should be turned out. There are some relics of Lager Beer the deposed party still holding office in the territory, and it there is to be a clean democratic administration of affairs here the governor should at once carry out the idea which found expression through the people in his becoming the chief magistrate of New Mexico. All progressive citizens of the territory will sustain him in any lawful action he may take in accomplishing the good work, as they are convinced that he cannot, hampered and harassed by the remnants of the old gang which still hang on, carry out as fully as is ne essary the plans he has formulated for the progress and advancement of the territory.

IF the taxpayers of San Miguel county desire to secure for the county a good, clean, honest, economical administration of affairs, they must combine to overthrow the republican party. The recent report of the grand jury has shown, and it is a patent fact to all who have given the matter attention, that with few exceptions under the conduct of affairs for a number of years past, there has been a reckless di-regard of public interests by those having control of the county finances, and the management of our interests. The only way to effect a change is to elect men of character to look after the business, and with the present boss system, which marks the management of the republican party in this county, a a purification of that outfit cannot be expected, as it would mean the down fall of the bosses, and they are stronger than their party.

IMPORTANT DECISION AFFECTING WATER RIGHTS.

The question of riparian rights which has long agitated the minds of the farm ers in countries where irrigation is necessary, has at last been brought to an issue in the supreme court of California, a decision being rendered in favor of the riparian owner. The case in point is one of years' standing. Lux & Miller had brought suit against the Kern River Land and Canal company to enjoin them from diverting the water of the Kern river, which flowed through their lands, and have at length obtained a decision in their favor. The opinion in the case was written by Justice McKinstry, and embraced over three hundred pages of manuscript. It holds that the water flowing through lands is a part of the tealty,—a principle which is based upon the old common law of England, which it maintains is still in force. Justices McKee, Thornton and LAS VEGAS,

Sharpstein concurred in the opinion, while Chief Justice Morrison and Justices Ross and Myzick dissented. Thus it will be seen that while the decision is final se far as the state of California is concerned it is not very strong, inasmuch as it is only austained by a vote of four to three, and will not have much effect upon the sole Proprietor and country at large, until the question is passed upon by the supreme court, the highest tribunal in the land. Should this body concur in the California opinion it will completely upset the title of water rights and render them as worthless as the paper upon which they are recorded. This subject is one of great importance and has been before the people for nearly a hundred years, and though riparian rights were recognized to some extent in the longingo the claim almost became ob solete, all modern transactions having been made on the basis that water flowing through land was no part thereof, but was an independent realty of itself, and became the rightful property of its first ap propriator, provided such appropriation was continuous; and water rights bave been bought and sold with the same confidence that has governed land transactions. But if the California decision is sustained the whole basis of water titles is knocked into a cocked hat, and the bast J. water right in the world is not worth a business men as to the condition of fig. Even to the riparian owner it is of finance and business and the future but little value as he can only obtain possession of it where it enters his land and must return it to its natural channel where KEG BEER it leaves his possessions. But as water is largely consumed by its diversion from its proper channel we question if its appropriation for irrigation purposes, under the riparian hypothesis may not be prevented altogether. This opinion is very unexpected, and is undoubtedly the severest blow western agriculture has ever yet re-



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